



## **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

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COMMISSIONER

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## **VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING APPRENTICES FOR 2004**

**RICHMOND** – The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry announced that the Virginia Apprenticeship Council has recognized five apprentices as Virginia's Outstanding Apprentices for 2004. The Council, in association with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, sponsors the awards program, which honors outstanding apprentices each year who have completed their training programs and are nominated by their sponsoring organizations. Nominated apprentices are judged in many areas, including craftsmanship, accuracy, cooperation, leadership, decision-making, and consideration for their companies and co-workers.

Barry W. Baker, Chairman of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council, accompanied by Vice Chairman Steven Staples, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Michael J. Schewel and Commissioner of Labor and Industry C. Ray Davenport, presented the Outstanding Apprentice Awards at a ceremony on December 9, 2004 to the following persons:

Kevin Bradley Ashwell, an electric lineman apprentice employed by Southside Electric Cooperative, Crewe;

Michael Barrett, a cosmetology apprentice employed by Salon Bleu, McLean;

Matthew Koren, a millwright apprentice employed by Millwrights and Machinery Erectors Local 1402 Joint Apprenticeship Committee, Richmond;

Darcy Kuehn, a marine designer apprentice employed by Northrop Grumman Newport News, Newport News; and

Juan Mercado, a plumbing apprentice employed by EMC Company, Richmond, Virginia.

“I commend these outstanding apprentices for excelling in their work,” stated Secretary Schewel. “Their skill, hard work and commitment to their respective apprenticeship programs have resulted in a winning situation for the employees, their employers, and the Commonwealth.”

Apprenticeship Council Chairman Baker said, “The Virginia Apprenticeship Council is dedicated to fostering the job and skill development opportunities available through apprenticeship. Our 2004 outstanding apprentices exemplify the best of what apprenticeship has to offer.”

“I congratulate the apprentices and their employers on their outstanding efforts and for recognizing the merits of registered apprenticeship,” stated Commissioner Davenport. “Apprenticeship is a proven, efficient workforce development program that helps ensure a highly skilled, quality, healthy and safe workforce.”

The Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Program was established in 1938. Apprenticeship training is used in more than 300 occupations in Virginia. There are currently over 12,000 registered apprentices employed by more than 2,000 employers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on registered apprenticeship can be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor and Industry’s Web site at [www.doli.virginia.gov](http://www.doli.virginia.gov).

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